

# The Washington Press

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY PRESS

VOLUME XXVIII

NILES, ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1916

NUMBER 16

## REAL ESTATE EXPLOITERS COME IN FOR A SEVERE PANNING BY COMMISSION

Real estate exploiters come in for a pretty severe "panning" at the hands of the California State Commission Land Colonization and Rural Credits, which suggests radical changes in our settlement policies.

"We have been carrying on colonization enterprises on an impossible financial plan. We have been asking settlers to make a profit of from 20 to 40 per cent from raw land the first few years. They have not done so, and what is more important, they are not attempting to do so."

So state the report to the Governor just issued by the State Commission on Land Colonization and Rural Credits.

"If the settlers in these colonies where the soil is good and the water supply satisfactory had been given the time, the interest rate and the assistance in other directions given settlers in Denmark, Ireland, Germany or Australia, the percentage of successes here would have been as large as in those countries."

The prices asked for unimproved farm lands in California are the highest in the United States. Since 1900 land prices have been multiplied by from two to ten, while the profits of farming have increased but little. "Hence some years ago men who bought land at \$50.00 an acre could pay high interest rates and get out of debt, while today interest payments alone are causing many recent settlers a tremendous struggle."

"High prices of land have made intensive cultivation a necessity, and that in turn requires costlier improvements and higher-priced equipment."

"The cost of preparing a 40 acre irrigated farm in California so that it will be habitable and in condition to be fully productive will be from \$100 to \$200 an acre."

Up to the present, colonization companies have not appreciated the expenditures necessary for improving and equipping a farm and their sales agents have minimized the cost to the prospective settler.

Three plans for the development of ready-made farms submitted by Balfour, Guthrie & Co., and Chas. J. Kendrick, are incorporated in the report. These plans show the cost of improving and equipping a farm and the necessity for better terms both in time and interest rates.

An analysis of the cost of developing orange and lemon groves shows that it costs more than \$1000.00 per acre to bring an orange grove to its tenth year, and more than \$1100 to bring a lemon grove to the same age.

Some of the best informed men of the State appeared before the Commission at its public hearings. Extracts from the testimony of such men as C. F. Dillman, president of the D. O. Mills Bank, Sacramento; L. A. Nares, manager of colonization enterprises, Fresno, Cal.; Robert Newton Lynch, San Francisco; E. E. Manheim, banker, Fresno; C. B. Messenger, editor, Los Angeles; Marshall Stinson, land owner, Los Angeles; E. F. Harris, banker, Stockton; J. A. Aggler, farmer, Stockton; appear in the report. The statements of these men confirm the findings of the field investigation of the Commission. These latter men visited 991 settlers on 24 projects extending from Tehama County to San Diego.

They found, among other things, that settlers had an average of \$4800 cash capital no their arrival; that they paid \$160 per acre for their land; that their improvement to date, though incomplete, had cost \$237 and that the size of their holdings was 37 acres.

The average age of settlers on all California projects visited was 43.6 years; the young, ambitious, energetic man who made rural California what it is today is conspicuous by his absence.

The exploiter of California real estate and the harm he has done this State is set forth in no uncertain terms. "The speculative colonizing agent gave no more thought to com-

### SUBWAY NEARLY READY

The iron girders over the Niles subway on the State Highway are being put in place this week by the Southern Pacific Co. and in a few day this splendid improvement will be ready for use. The delay on the part of the company has been due to work on other parts of the system by the crew assigned to this particular kind of work.

## BEST DANCE OF THIS SEASON IN NILES TONIGHT

The Macabees of Niles have been making preparations for some time for their dance which is to take place this Saturday evening, December 16, in Connor's Hall. The affair promises a fine time for all who attend and a large crowd from all about the township is expected to be present. The music for the dance is to be furnished by Syke's Orchestra. Gentlemen will pay fifty cents admission, ladies free.

community welfare or to the ultimate results of his enterprise than he would to the results of buying or selling grain or coal. Land was to him merchandise to be bought at the cheapest possible price and sold for as much money as the settler could be induced to pay."

It is to the credit of some California landowners that they were not carried away by this speculative inflation but continued to sell land at relatively low prices and to sell only to those who were believed to have a reasonable chance of success. But few of the colony lands of California have been sold directly by the owners. Where landowners have dealt directly with settlers there has been little complaint and there are notable instances where the owner has assumed a moral responsibility for the settler's success, although there was no legal responsibility.

Abundant evidence is given showing the desirability and necessity for placing colonization in California under public control.

The growing menace of tenant farming in this State is presented in its true light. The situation in the Placer County fruit belt and in the Delta region is brought to the attention of the State. Though a financial success, tenantry from a social standpoint is deplorable. Better provision for farm laborers are needed and it is pointed out that it is feasible to create conditions which will make life as a farm worker more desirable and as profitable to those with families as is the life of the unskilled laborer or the average artisan in cities.

The "Methods and Policies of Land Settlement in Other Countries" occupies a part of the report. It is shown that the United States and Mexico are the only great nations of the world that have not made "land settlement a State or National issue." The time is ripe now for California to adapt the successful world systems to her needs and put a new colonization and settlement policy into operation.

Conditions in this State make it imperative that a radical change in our settlement policies be made. The success in land settlement in other countries where State aid is given offer working examples for us to pattern after. More generous personal credit

## IS IT WORTH WHILE?

During the past five years The Press has made the fight of the small property owner. As a result there is now working for the proper solution of our water question the best engineering talent in the State. This would have been impossible if our fight had not been made. We can not hope for any personal support from the Water District in return for the sacrifices we have been called upon to make. The Water District needs all the taxes available to pay for necessary engineering and legal expenses.

The fight for the water supply of this district will not be ended until the question has been definitely settled. Until that time it will be necessary to watch every move of the various interests and when necessary to expose any schemes detrimental to the public welfare of the entire district. Past experience has shown that if a paper does this it incurs the hostility of all who can in any way be influenced. This hostility is shown in many ways and from many sources. It is exerted secretly and openly. It can be accomplished by withholding support and diverting it to others.

The Press has made enemies, influential enemies, in urging an organization which fights for all. If the people who have homes in this valley and for whom we have made the fight do not support the paper, there is no other source from which it can be expected. It is because the paper needs your financial support to pay its expenses that we are frank in appealing to you.

Perhaps you who read this may be a regular subscriber. If you are you know what our course has been and what it has brought about. Talk it over with your neighbors and urge them to subscribe.

We are not whining over spilled milk. We expect to work for years to pay for our personal share in the fight. All we ask now is that we be not obliged to give up the paper in order that we may make good financially.

We know and you know that so long as we have charge of the paper there will be no weakening until the safety of this district is absolutely guaranteed. Is the fight worth while? That is for the people of the township to say.

CHRIS RUNCKEL

must be supplied and longer terms of payment provided.

The State should aid colonization by establishing one or more offices in the State where information regarding land in approved colony enterprises could be obtained.

A demonstration by the State of the methods and policies which have transformed rural life and immensely improved agricultural practices in Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Australia and New Zealand is urged. It is pointed out that this demonstration could be made on a commercial scale so that it would be self-supporting and not cost the tax payers of the State one cent.

The report is signed by the Commissioners: ELWOOD MEAD, Chairman, HARRIS WEINSTOCK, DAVID P. BARROWS, MORTIMER FLEISHHACKER, CHESTER ROWELL, DAVID N. MORGAN, Secretary.

## MEETING TO DISCUSS NEW BAY BRIDGE

A meeting of delegates from the various Chambers of Commerce in this part of Alameda County is to be held in the rooms of the Newark Realty and Development Company on Monday evening, Dec. 18, at 7:30 o'clock, to confer concerning the proposed new vehicular bridge across San Francisco Bay at Dumbarton Point. At the last meeting of the Newark Chamber of Commerce Messrs. W. C. Graham and Wheeler were authorized to collect data from interior points in the matter, and they are to report at this meeting.

## CHRISTMAS TREE PARTY IN NILES DECEMBER 23rd

Under the auspices of the Young Ladies Institute of Niles the Sunday School children of the Catholic Church will have a Christmas Tree Party on Saturday evening, Dec. 23, at Odd Fellows Hall. There will be a delightful program by the children of the Sunday School and a real live Santa Claus to make every kiddie happy. Mrs. William Moore and Mrs. Cahill have charge of the affair assisted by Miss Lynch, Miss Garcia, Miss Rose, and Miss Whitfield.

### PROGRAM

1. Trio—Myrtle Perry, Filma Lanfri, Helen Futado
2. Adeline Nevis, Piano Solo
3. Laura Silva, Song; Recitation
4. Edna Destrella, Recitation
5. Ione Cahill, Piano Solo
6. Willis Bliss, Recitation
7. Acrostic—Helen O'Neal, Edna Rose, Gertrude Destrella, Helen Bliss, Mary Sullivan, Mary Fields, Mary Bliss, Susie Oneal, Ione Cahill.

### OLD BELL TO RING IN NEW YEAR

The oldest Christian bell in existence will ring out the old and ring in the new at Oakland's New Year's eve celebration this year. This ceremony will be the finale of the production of "The Messiah" by the Alameda County Chorus in the \$1,000,000 municipal auditorium.

Preceding the oratorio a pilgrimage will be made to the top of Mount Diablo, where farewell will be sung to the last sunset of 1916 and a dance symbolic of the birth of the new year will be performed. Mount Diablo, the highest peak in Central California, gained its name from an Indian chief called "The Devil", who routed the Spanish conquistadors in the seventeenth century.

These two events are parts of an elaborate musical program for 1917 arranged under the direction of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce. The other festivals include:

An open air opera in the early spring on the shores of Lake Merritt, the only salt water lake in the world inside the confines of a city.

A concert of the songs of war and peace on the night of May 29 in the municipal auditorium.

A musical pilgrimage in the fall to the Joaquin Miller cross on "The Heights" the home of the late poet, where General John C. Fremont first saw and named the Golden Gate.

The old bell that is to ring on New Year's eve is of Spanish casting, bearing the date of 1247. In that year Spain's first Christian King, James I, was on the throne. It is the property of Frank A. Miller of Riverside in Southern California.

## BRICK COMPANY IS TO ENLARGE ITS NILES PLANT

The California Brick Co., whose plants at Decoto and Livermore are already very large ones will still further increase the capacity of both plants in the near future. The present demands for the company's products necessitate an increase in the drying and burning departments. These will be increased at once by additional kilns and driers that will call for the expenditure of at least \$70,000.

The big plant at Decoto has enjoyed a very good year and best of all it has developed into a successful industry. The making of a successful paving brick has been accomplished under the superintendency of Mr. Meyers and for the past year it has been making paving brick almost exclusively. Some sewer brick are being made as there is considerable demand for them.

San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties are at present using the company's paving brick quite extensively and the City of Berkeley expects to use them on some of its streets.

The value of paving brick for a permanent pavement is recognized all over the central part of the United States. With the growing demand for good permanent roads in California the value of this character of pavement is bound in time to be more fully recognized.

Considering the hundreds of thousands of dollars that the company has spent in this section and the large payroll it is maintaining it ought to be a matter of pride on the part of our people to boost this industry on all occasions.

## PIANO CONTEST WILL CLOSE ON DECEMBER 20th

The Hellwig Lagrave piano contest will close on Dec. 20. There are only five days more for the contestants to get in their votes and it is expected the closing days of the contest will see some lively voting. The two leading contestants are Mrs. Dinsmore of Alvarado and Miss Rose Smith of Decoto. Both have done some lively hustling.

The contest has been handled by the Hellwig Lagrave people and they have announced that the contest will positively close on Dec. 20.

There is a chance for several days yet to help your favorite in the contest, by subscribing to the Washington Press. With each yearly subscription we give 2000 votes. In addition to this we give a coupon to all new subscribers entitling them to an excellent photo. This photo is made by a reputable firm in San Francisco and the work turned out by them is of first class quality. This offer of the photo will hold good for each new subscriber at any time.

This week is your last chance to help in the contest. Remember it closes on Dec. 20.

## Hiram Johnson the 1920 Moses

The editor of the Richmond, Virginia, Enterprise has the following to say about Senator-elect Hiram W. Johnson, whom it alludes to as the 1920 Moses:

"Those busy president-makers who see in Theodore Roosevelt the Moses that shall lead the republican party to victory in 1920 are trailing a false scent. The colonel has had his day in court and the people, while recognizing his many excellent qualities, are not disposed to entrust to his erratic hand further control of the ship of state.

"In this quadrennial year the great west is the Moving Finger, which has writ and moved on, leaving Roosevelt and his vitriolic utterances by the wayside. The strong figure in the country, as evidence by the extraordinary vote of California, is Hiram W. Johnson, the real idol of the progressives, a forward-looking republican who much more nearly represents the true spirit of progressive republicans the country over than the repudiated colonel.

"Governor Johnson, or United States Senator-Elect Johnson, is a Native Son, a brilliant lawyer, a man of powerful personality, aggressive, positive, essentially a leader. In the Senate, it will not be long before his natural talents will be recognized and his opinions deferred to. The determination of the election by the west removes the long-standing objection of 'geographical' handicap to a candidate not chosen from a so-called 'pivot' state. In this election California was the State pivot, with Minnesota an important cog. The west must be wooed in future elections for the party to be successful, hence the figure of Hiram Johnson begins to loom large on the political horizon as a presidential possibility. Already, he has been before the people, nationally, as a vice-presidential candidate on the progressive ticket. Now he is back in the republican ranks as a 'regular', having received the republican nomination and election for United States senator.

"It requires no political presence to foresee that the old guard republicans, the reactionary element in the party, must give way to the real progressive within the organization. That

the latter responsible for the election of Wilson cannot be doubted. They gave Johnson 300,000 majority in California and the electoral vote of the state to Wilson, thereby deciding the election. In this is seen the hand of the progressive republicans with a vengeance, and to that important faction in the party must present and future leaders defer.

"Not to Roosevelt, then, but to Johnson, must the republicans look for leadership in 1920 if they would stand any chance of success. With Johnson it is possible; with Roosevelt improbable. To the sunset state of the Golden West and Hiram Warren Johnson its idol, the Republican party of four years hence, in all likelihood, will turn for its Moses, if we read the signs aright."

### BENEFIT DANCE BY NILES BAND

It is hoped that a good crowd will be on hand to dance at Connor's Hall on Saturday evening of next week to help swell the fund for the Niles Chamber of Commerce Band, for whose benefit the dance is to be given. The music for the terpsichore is to be furnished by the band itself and prizes are to be awarded as a special feature of the evening. Gentlemen will be charged an admission of fifty cents.

## Coming Events

December 16. Sunday evening. Social Dance. Connor's Hall, Niles, given by Canyon Tent, The Macabees. Sykes' Orchestra.

December 15. Friday evening. Connor's Hall. Entertainment. Benefit pipe organ fund for Niles Congregational Church.

December 23. Saturday evening. Benefit Dance by the Niles Chamber of Commerce Band. Connors' Hall.

December 20. Wednesday, 6:00 P. M. Close of Hellwig-Lagrange-Washington Press Piano contest.



# The Washington Press

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY PRESS  
CHRIS RUNCKEL  
Editor and Proprietor

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Saturday Morning

Subscription Price, \$2.00 per Year  
Entered at the Postoffice at Niles, Cal.,  
as Second-Class Mail Matter

E D I T O R I A L

## YOU CAN HELP

There is a good chance for those who appreciate the loyalty of the Press to the best interests of this township to subscribe for the paper at this time. You can help the young ladies who are trying to win a piano and you can help to increase the circulation of the Press. There are only a few days left before the contest closes.

The announcement that the California Brick Co. is to enlarge the capacity of its already large plant at Decoto is very gratifying. It is a serious criticism on our own county to know that while both San Francisco and Sant Clara Counties are using the output of this plant that so far Alameda County has given it absolutely no encouragement. Here is a home industry with an investment of at least half a million dollars and so far as Alameda County is concerned it is utterly ignored. With a monthly payroll of \$5000 a month it is one of the principal industries of this section. Our people complacently profit by the operation of the big plant but in no way do we show any appreciation whatever of the hundreds of thousands of dollars of outside capital which it has invested in our county. It seems that we might at least show our appreciation by putting in some of our permanent highways the excellent paving material which it is manufacturing in our midst. Even a block or two of street somewhere in the township ought to be laid in paving brick to help demonstrate to others the superior quality of our local product. Certainly Alameda County, the third richest in the State ought to cultivate a different attitude toward this big home industry which is recognized by its neighboring counties.

Some of the friends of Deputy Attorney General John T. Nourse have been advocating his appointment as City Attorney of San Francisco. Of course no better selection could be made. It

# POLITICAL GOSSIP

BY THE EDITOR

The Oakland political pot is just simmering a little at present. The most interesting gossip just now is caused by the renewal of the effort to secure several additional superior judges for Alameda County. As usual the preliminary moves to secure the appointments are being made and the number of aspirants who are willing to don the toga is not limited to the number of positions that are to be created.

Among the most active are District Attorney W. H. Hynes, Mortimer Smith and Senator Tyrrell. Hynes is anxious to repeat the history of the past and have the District Attorney's office prove the stepping stone to the judgeship. In case the positions are created the appointments will be made by the Governor. As it is uncertain whether Governor Johnson or his successor Governor Stephens will have the privilege of naming the new judges, there is somewhat more of an air of uncertainty than usual attached to the situation. Whether the change in the government will man a change in the predominating influence in Oakland is also keeping the politicians guessing. That the election of Stephens to the governorship may strengthen the Earl influence in Oakland is just now engaging earnest attention. If Hynes is appointed the Board of Supervisors will appoint his successor to the District Attorneyship. Of course, all the deals will be made before hand if possible. Ezra Decoto is among those mentioned as well as other deputies in the office. Whether an attempt will be made to secure two or three judges to relieve the present overworked occupants has not been definitely decided upon. At any rate there is apt to be a lot of trading and political bargaining done in case the new positions are created and when everything is arranged the public will be informed. As yet the game has not proceeded for enough to indicate any definite lineup.

The recent illness of Assessor Horner started some lively polit-

seems however that Nourse has fallen in the esteem of Mayor Rolph owing to the suit brought by the Alameda County Water District against the Spring Valley Water Co. just as the Mayor was trying to convince the voters of San Francisco that they should buy out the water company. That suit is blamed for playing an important part in Spring Valley's defeat. Mayor Rolph is wrong in blaming Attorney Nourse although we understand Nourse is not seeking the position and is well content where he now is. Nourse acted merely as the attor-

ney for the water district and was merely carrying out the instruction of the officers of the district. It took some tall rustling on the part of the Secretary of the Alameda County Water District to get that suit filed before the San Francisco election. There are interesting incidents connected with that suit which some day may come to light which will entirely exonerate Mr. Nourse from any blame whatever in the filing of the suit just three days before the election. We realized the importance of the bearing of the suit upon the San Francisco election and we spared no effort to have it get in its work. We believe it was the turning point in our district's fight.

Washington Township does not need a boom. It does need constant attention called to its splendid possibilities from week to week. There is no better way to encourage and unite the efforts for its development than a live local newspaper. One way to encourage local development is through your local paper. The way to make the paper effective is to support it. The time to do that is right now.

The legislature meets in a couple of weeks. If the matter of protection from such a large dam as the Calaveras is to receive any attention it is time that our people got busy in taking the matter up. The proper officials ought to give this matter their attention.

Evidently the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Washington Township need to turn over a new leaf for the coming year. There is yet plenty of good work for it to do and the coming year ought to see a revival of its energies.

## At the Churches

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
Niles, California  
H. H. GILL, Minister  
Sunday School, 10:00 a. m.  
Church services, 11:00 a. M.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CENTERVILLE  
REV. F. C. MURGOTTEN, Minister  
Sunday School, 10:00 a. m.  
Kindergarten, 11:00 a. m.  
Morning Service, 11:00 a. m.  
First Sunday of the month, evening service, 7:45 p. m.

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH  
Niles, California  
Mass at 9:30 a. m. each Sunday.  
Decoto, California  
Mass at 11:00 a. m.

HOLY GHOST CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Centerville, California  
Father A. M. Souza, pastor.  
Father S. F. Baron, asst. pastor.  
Mass daily at 7:00 and 7:30 a. m.  
Sunday — Mass at 8 a. m. and 10:50 a. m. Benediction and sermon at 7:30.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Irvington, California  
H. V. WHITE, Minister  
10 a. m. Sunday School.  
8 p. m. Preaching Services.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Newark, California  
James Curry, D.D., Pastor.  
Preaching services at 11 and 7:45 o'clock. Christian Endeavor meeting 7 p. m. Sabbath School 9:45 p. m., Prayer meeting, Wednesday 7:30 p. m., Ladies Aid first and third Wednesday afternoon each month, Missionary Society last Fridays at 2:30 p. m.

S. P. TIME TABLE			
IN EFFECT OCT. 1, 1916			
SAN FRANCISCO TO NILES			
No.	Tr. Lv. S.F.	Ar. Niles	
210	1:20a	1:57a	2:42a
500		4:00a	4:45a
90	6:40a	7:11a	8:08a
82	7:20a	7:51a	8:40a
32	8:20a	8:55a	10:00a
504	12:40p	1:15p	2:13p
38	4:00p	4:30p	5:12p
52*	4:40p	5:10p	5:47p
96	4:40p	5:12p	6:07
80	5:00p	5:30p	6:12p
182**	5:20p	5:53p	6:47p
98	6:40p	7:11p	7:58
184	Sun. only 7:40p	8:11p	9:02p

TRACY TO SAN FRANCISCO via Niles  
Train From Lv. Niles Ar. Oak. Ar. S.F.  
No. 1st. St.  
89 S.J. 5:45a 6:35a 7:10a  
98 Liv. 6:54a 7:51a 8:30a  
91 S.J. 7:57a 8:55a 9:30a  
79 S.Flyer 8:55a 9:33a 10:10a  
181 S.P. 1:30p 2:13p 2:50p  
31 S.S.Ex. 2:20p 3:10p 3:50p  
97 S.J.P. 4:35p 5:32p 6:10p  
37 S.F.Pas. 6:12p 6:53p 7:80p  
51\* Bak.Pas. 8:51p 9:28p 10:00p  
Trains leave Niles for Centerville and Newark: No. 5:07 at 4:45 a.m. milk, 5:05 at 9:15 a.m., No. 5:13 at 6:58 a.m., 5:09 at 2:25 p.m., 5:15 at 6:12 p.m.  
Trains leave San Francisco for Niles via Newark and Centerville: No. 188, lv Newark 9:35 a.m., arr. Niles 9:50 a.m., No. 92 lv. San Francisco 12:40 p.m., arr. Newark 2:00 p.m., arr. Niles 2:15 p.m.

NILES TO SAN JOSE  
Trains leave Niles at 8:10 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 1:35 p.m., 2:20 p.m., 6:12 p.m., 8:00 p.m.  
SAN JOSE TO NILES  
Trains leave San Jose: 5:15 a.m., 7:20 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 3:55 p.m.  
\* Does not stop at Niles.  
\*\* Daily except Sunday.

PROFESSIONAL  
Notices under this heading \$1 per month, payable in advance.

WILLIAM CARSTON LYNCH, M. D.  
Physician and Surgeon. Office Hours 9 to 10, 2 to 4, and 7 to 8. Phone Res. 2. Office 48, Residence Hotel Belvoir, Office MacRae Building, Niles, California.

DR. T. F. TAYLOR  
Physician and Surgeon. Office Hours 10 to 12 a. m., and 2 to 4 and 7 to 8 p. m. Theatre Building, Niles, California.

DR. J. H. DURHAM  
Dentist. Office Hours: 9 to 12 and 2 to 5. Irvington, California.

## LODGE MEETINGS

NILES LODGE, NO. 382, I. O. O. F. Meets every Monday evening at Niles  
N. P. HANSEN, N. G.  
L. A. FRONTZ, V. G.  
P. A. ELLIS, Secy.

MAPLE CAMP NO. 146, W. O. W. — Meets every second and Fourth Fridays of the Month in Stevenson's Hall, Centerville.  
J. F. ROSE, Con. Com.  
JOS. SOITO, Adv.  
M. H. LEWIS, Clerk.  
M. S. ALMAIDA, Banker.

ALAMEDA LODGE, F. & A. M. Stated meetings at Masonic Temple, Centerville, for 1916: January 15, February 12, March 18, April 15, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 7, November 4, December 9.  
F. B. HARTMAN, W. M.  
A. T. BIDDLE, Secretary.

## THAT LEAKY ROOF YOU BETTER SEE US YOU WILL FIND

FIRE - PROOF  
WATER-PROOF  
HEAT - PROOF  
DAMP - PROOF

# ROOFING

KEEP DRY AND SMILE

## Newark Lumber Company

NEWARK CALIFORNIA

## EDUARD SALZ, Inc.

Dealers In  
REAL ESTATE  
ACREAGE IN ALAMEDA COUNTY A SPECIALTY  
Wholesale Dealers In

## FEED AND GRAIN

We always sell at lowest market prices  
All kinds of FARMING IMPLEMENTS and VEHICLES  
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DECOTO IRVINGTON

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ICE CREAM AND CANDY PARLOR  
LUNCHES AND SHORT ORDERS

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## P. C. HANSEN & CO.

Lumber, Coal, Hay and Grain.

Lime, Cements and Plaster

All Kinds Building Hardware  
and Wire Fence.  
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# Electric Ranges SPECIAL

We are now making very attractive offers to those interested in the use of electricity for cooking and water heaters.

See local agents for particulars.

Ask for FREE illustration booklets on electric cooking.

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GEO. L. DONOVAN A. SATTERTHWAITE  
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## PRACTICAL GIFTS

The Farmers Union is filled with practical gifts—things a person can use in a practical way. And are gifts any the less acceptable because they are useful and serviceable? We suggest—

—CROCKERY. Our big upstairs department offers hundreds of gift suggestions: dainty hand painted pieces, sets, etc.  
—ALADDIN ALUMINUM, the best aluminum ware made. Pieces at from 35c to \$4.  
—ELECTRIC APPLIANCES, irons, percolators, stoves, etc.  
—CARVERS in a big variety. Good carver sets at \$2.50 up.  
—EVER-REAY FLASHLIGHTS at from 95c up.  
—POCKET KNIVES, 1-, 2-, and 3-blade, at 25c up.  
—WHEEL GOODS for the boys, wagons, velocipedes, skooters, etc. The durable kind that will last for a long while.

BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS CANDIES FROM THE FARMERS UNION



## MAIL ORDERS

We pay special attention to mail orders and guarantee satisfaction. Order from any of our advertisements, or write for our prices on anything you want.

## L. C. SWAIN

The Jeweler of Centerville

Will have a Pretty and Complete line of Holiday Gifts this season.

All the Latest Designs from the Eastern Factories.

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ICE CREAM AND CANDY STORE

ATHLETIC GOODS

BRANCH OFFICE

THE WASHINGTON PRESS

J. S. BELL, PROP. CENTERVILLE, CAL.

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BAKERY AND ICE CREAM PARLOR

Open from 6:00 A. M. until 12:00 P. M.

EXCLUSIVE AGENTS FOR LEHNHARDT'S CANDIES

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Free in Washington Township.

JOE D. GOMES, Prop. NILES, CALIFORNIA



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WALL PAPER  
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TRUNKS  
SUIT CASES  
BEDDING

BARGAINS IN SECOND  
HAND DEPARTMENT

ELLIS  
FURNITURE MAN  
NILES CAL.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH, NILES

All of the Sunday school pupils are urged to remain for church service next Sunday morning. "How to observe the Christmas season" will be the theme for the sermon. The evening subject will be "What shall I do with it?" The service is for every person in the community who is under 25 years of age, and for those who wish they were.

The gymnasium will be open by the first of the year under a comprehensive plan of management. A committee consisting of Mesdames Alberg, Richmond, Schofield, and Messrs. Johnson and Moyer are now working on the plans.

## Shooting Notice

THE UNDERSIGNED hereby notify the public that they will not allow hunting or shooting on their property or along Alameda Creek adjoining their premises.

Anyone trespassing on our property will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

J. H. Peterson  
E. H. Stevenson  
Leola V. Stevenson  
Spring Valley Water Co.  
George P. Lowrie  
Fred Lowrie  
B. C. Mickie  
J. M. Noya  
J. C. Shinn  
California Nursery Company, Inc.

### FOR NILES PEOPLE

Simple tuckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., as mixed in Adler-ika, the appendicitis preventative, drains so much foul matter from the body that ONE SPOONFUL relieves sour stomach, gas and constipation AT ONCE. The QUICK action is astonishing. M. B. Sneden, druggist.—adv.

### NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that Tuesday the 2 day of January 1916, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M., at the rooms of the Board of Supervisors, in the annex to the Hall of Records, in the City of Oakland, has been fixed as the time and place for hearing the application of T. S. Mello to obtain a renewal of a liquor license for the sale of liquor at Alvarado in Alvarado Election Precinct.

GEO. E. GROSS,

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.  
Dated Oakland, Cal., Dec. 11, 1916.

### NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that Monday the 18th day of December 1916, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M., at the rooms of the Board of Supervisors, in the annex to the Hall of Records, in the City of Oakland, has been fixed as the time and place for hearing the application of Anton D. Goulart to obtain a renewal of a liquor license for the sale of liquor at Decoto in Decoto Election Precinct.

GEO. E. GROSS,

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.  
Dated Oakland, Cal., Nov. 27, 1916.

### FOR SALE

Dry Stove  
WOOD

CALIFORNIA NURSERY CO. INC.

—FINE NEAT—  
TAILORING  
SKILLED  
WORKMANS'P

A. Anastasin

The Tailor

Lynch Bldg. Niles, Cal.

# Lincoln Steffens Pictures Ideals of Carranza in Talk Before Commonwealth Club

(Note: The following article from Monday's issue of The Bulletin is reprinted in full, and we urge our readers to read it carefully, because it seems to be the TRUTH about the perplexing Mexican question. Lincoln Steffens has a reputation for veracity that is beyond question, and his investigation into Mexico's problems has been thorough, as his conclusions are far-reaching. The following article will help you to change your mind if you imagine that Mexico is capable of producing only rattlesnakes and tortillas and sneaky "greasers." The Mexicans have something to teach us, if we are not too pig-headed to want to learn.—C. R. Jr.)

A very sympathetic picture of the efforts and ideals of the Carranza regime in Mexico was presented to the members of the Commonwealth Club at their luncheon at the Palace on Saturday by Lincoln Steffens.

General Carranza, whom Steffens knows intimately and who has sought the counsel of the American writer and reformer on various important details of his attempt to mould the lasting monument out of the social chaos which existed in the southern country, was depicted as a man who understands his people and is earnestly trying to develop them, in accordance with their peculiar temperament and characteristics, towards the goal of their own best interests.

"The Mexicans," said Steffens, "are a backward people, struggling clumsily to achieve their ideals, not ours. Mexico has something to teach us."

"Until we can go abroad to learn and not to teach, we should build a wall around the United States and stay here until we have absolutely solved our own problems."

In contrasting the Mexican people with the people of the United States he said the Mexicans wanted to be happy through all of life's journey, while we hoarded until we had accumulated great fortunes. "It is pretense that is costly," said Steffens. "Joy doesn't cost much. It doesn't cost much to love. It doesn't cost much to dance. It doesn't cost much to sing."

### SINGLE TAX REMEDY.

The great problem of Mexico, which Steffens says Carranza is sincerely trying to solve, is to deal with special privileges and take them away from individuals.

Steffens declared repeatedly, with much emphasis, that neither Diaz nor Madero, nor the Americans and other foreigners who are exploiting Mexico, should be blamed individually for conditions there. All of these men, he said, were merely functioning naturally when they took all they could get for as little as possible. He placed the fault entirely in the system which permits the granting of privileges.

The Carranza plan, as Steffens outlined it, is to gradually wipe out the huge concessions in land and mineral deposits, which have been the curse of Mexico, by putting into effect an adaptation of the single tax.

"Carranza's scheme," said Steffens, "is to go to the mine owners and say: 'Put your own valuation on the part of the mine that you are actually operating. We will tax you on that valuation at the current rate of 10 per cent. We will tax the inoperative part of your property—which is probably about nine tenths of the whole—just twice as much. We intend to establish an economic system under which the individual won't want to hold more than he can operate.'"

### LAND TAX, TOO

As to the land problem, Steffens said that Carranza proposed to tax it equally all over Mexico, on the theory that the foreign concessionaires would then either operate their holdings or sell them.

"If they decide to operate," he added, "it will solve the labor problem by providing employment for the people."

An important feature of the Carranza program, Steffens explained, is the restoration of the communal land system, which was formerly in vogue in Mexico, but was abolished during the Diaz regime when the granting of concessions began on a vast scale.

Under the communal system the Mexicans did not starve when they

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were out of employment. Every village was surrounded by a strip of communal land where any citizens could live, tend cattle, raise crops and ward off starvation.

"Diaz, under the urge of his foreign advisors, decided that this communal land must be taken away," said Steffens. "When he did that he took Mexico right out from under the Mexicans. Since then the people have had to work for someone else and live on someone else's land."

### RESTORE COMMUNAL LANDS

"Carranza intends to restore the communal lands, to put strips of it around all of the mines, and give his people a place to live."

Beginning with the accession of Porfirio Diaz to the Mexican presidency, Steffens gave an interesting sketch of the affairs of the southern republic, tracing from their incipency the causes of the various revolutions that wrecked the foundations of the Mexican nation.

At the outset he placed the blame for Mexico's plight upon the privilege concessions.

"All individuals in all countries to whom society or the government has shape of franchises or charters or concessions—are the men who corrupt society," he declared.

### PICTURE OF DIAZ

"Diaz was an Indian, a well meaning man, who intended to do good, but didn't know how. So, when he became president of Mexico, he asked the most practical men he could find to tell him what to do. Like practical men always do, they told him how things had always been done, not how they should be done. They

□ WE AMERICANS ARE A MORAL PEOPLE. WE THINK IN TERMS OF MORALITY. THE MEXICANS, LIKE ALL LATINS, ARE AESTHETIC..... CARRANZA UNDERSTANDS HIS PEOPLE. HE DOESN'T WANT OUR IDEALS OR PRACTICES. HE WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO DEVELOP SLOWLY..... HE WANTS TO GIVE THE MEXICAN PEOPLE A COUPLE HUNDRED YEARS TO DEVELOP IN THEIR OWN WAY. THEY ARE DIFFERENT.

told him to encourage American capitalists to come to Mexico. They told him that he had a wonderful country, with a wonderful soil, and under it vast deposits of wealth.

"In the United States, the pointed out, it was the custom to give those deposits to individuals so that they might get the wealth out. Such a policy, the assured him, would make for a prosperous nation. So he granted concessions to Americans, and at once they joined the forces that corrupted the government.

"Then the English came and outbid the Americans, and there was conflict between them. But Diaz had many concessions and he kept granting them until the labor problem developed. There were not enough laborers available to get out all the wealth, and the concessionaires decided that they must have an economic system that would deliver labor to them. They saw that, under the communal land system, many of the Mexicans didn't have to work for anybody else. So the communal lands were abolished.

### MADERO LEADS DISPOSSESSED

"That led to the beginning of the next revolution. Came Francisco Madero, Portuguese Jew, visionary idealist, as the leader of these dispossessed people."

Steffens pictured the early experiences and environment of Madero when he was a student in Europe, associating with the Bohemians and radicals of the foreign capitals.

"He brought back to Mexico the word that Mexico could be free again," continued Steffens. "He got a soap box, went out on the streets and preached his message of liberty to the common people. Diaz sent his chiefs of police to arrest him, but for a time they decided to let him rave on, on the theory that he was crazy. So he continued to preach the possibility of liberty, and many believed him. Finally they began to arrest him, but always he was released. There was a tradition among the Mexicans that angels had let him go. I investigated this rumor, and found that his liberators had not been angels, but coarse Spanish jailors. I asked one of them why he had let Madero go, and he replied: 'Because he was so beautiful!'

### AMERICANS FINANCE MADERO

"Then some good Americans, functioning naturally, mind you, financed Madero's revolution. Good Americans, believing that they were doing right,

have helped to finance every counter revolution that has occurred since, and every raid across the border, into the United States.

"The Americans in Mexico felt that they owned Mexico no loyalty. So after the revolution broke out they went to Diaz, who had granted them riches and had tried to deliver labor to them, and told him that his people were on strike, and that it was his duty to organize a Mexican army, lick his people and make them go back to work. Diaz was willing, but he said that it was impossible to succeed.

"My people," he explained, "look and act like slaves, but they are Indians, and at bottom they are free men. They can't be beaten into slavery until all of their resources are exhausted."

### MADERO'S ADMINISTRATION

"So Diaz went away, and Madero, the visionary, came into the capital. He didn't know what to do. Like Diaz before him, he asked practical men to advise him. Were they wicked? No, they were merely functioning naturally. Acting on their advice, he began to re-establish the very kind of government against which he had led the revolt.

"At this time Carranza came down to the capital, saw what was going on, and remonstrated with Madero, urging him to beware of his advisers.

"They are good men," replied Madero, and said no heed.

"Carranza warned him again that these men would kill him, but he said no."

Steffens said that one of the first meetings held in Mexico City for the purpose of overthrowing the constitutional government of Madero was called by the American ambassador.

"The Mexican conspirators picked Victoriano Huerta," he continued. "Then they planned a ten days' bloody battle in Mexico City, because they knew that public opinion always recoils against disorder. Huerta picked out the flower of the troops that were loyal to Madero and sent them up against the machine guns. When they were exterminated, Huerta went to Madero and told him that he must resign. Finally, convinced that he was serving his country, he did so. Then it was decided that he must be killed."

"Americans in Mexico say that Huerta had nothing to do with the murder of Madero, and that he forbade it. These statements seem to be borne out by facts. After Madero had been put in prison, it was planned to take him from the jail to the penitentiary in an automobile, force him out of the machine on the way, and then shoot him down on the pretext that he was a fugitive.

"Huerta arose at the table where this plan was formulated, and said that he forbade its execution. But his friends, disregarding his orders for the only time in their relationship with him, went ahead with the plot. The only detail in which it miscarried was that they didn't succeed in getting Madero out of the automobile. But they drove him around behind the penitentiary and shot him to pieces.

"Our ambassador then called a meeting, and urged all of the other ambassadors to get their governments to recognize Huerta before the news of the assassination spread abroad. All of the governments did so, except our own.

### WHY HUERTA FAILED

"There was a reason why the United States should not have recognized Huerta. It was because at that time he represented only us. He did not represent the Mexicans, but the foreigners alone. The conspirators had intended to put Felix Diaz in control of the government, but Huerta wouldn't do it, and his friends deserted him, charging treachery.

"A Mexican with whom I talked in New York said to me: 'We may have another tyrant in Mexico, but it will be a tyrant of our own choosing, not one chosen by Americans.'"

Carranza was described by Steffens as a man quiet inside and out, who speaks without moving his hands.

"His principal trait," he said, "is his obstinacy, but he has the most suggestive mind I ever met in a position of power. His obstinacy is a virtue. The foreigners complain that they cannot do anything with him. This is true. If you can form any conception of the atmosphere of bribery that pervades Mexico you may be able to appreciate the appalling temptations that have been offered him. He could have established peace at

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## WHITFIELD'S

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NILES, CAL.

SCHEDULE IN EFFECT SEPT. 24, 1916

## CLARK'S AUTO STAGE

From Oakland—read down

To Oakland—read up

9:45	1:45	5:45	Oakland	9:15	12:45	4:55
10:30	2:30	6:30	Hayward	8:35	12:05	4:15
10:50	2:50	6:50	Niles	8:10	11:40	3:50
11:00	3:00	7:00	Centerville	8:00	11:30	3:40

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Centerville —60c  
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Oakland—517 12th St., near Wash. St.  
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any time by agreeing to yield up the purposes of his revolution and protecting the privileges. None of the foreigners in Mexico favor Carranza. When he becomes popular in London, New York, or New Orleans he has sold out.

### CARRANZA'S PHILOSOPHY

"Carranza said to me: 'This is not a political revolution. It is an economic revolution. We don't talk, as you Americans do, in political terms. When anything goes wrong in your country, you change your mayor, your governor, or your President, and nothing happens. If the condition is particularly bad, you change your party, or your charter, or the form of your government, but nothing happens. Why not? Because, way back in the beginning of your government, when all of your statesmen were good men, you founded an economic plutocracy, under which an individual may take and hold more economic resources than he can use—hold it until the growth of population adds a socially created value. You are developing a rich class and a poor people. The rich

use their wealth to corrupt your universities, your churches and your life.'"

### LIBERTY HIS IDEAL

Steffens declared that it was not Carranza's purpose merely to set up a government—that he was mainly interested in liberty, in the development of the Mexicans into a free people, prosperous and with leisure.

"We Americans are a moral people," he said. "We think in terms of morality. The Mexicans, like all Latins, are aesthetic. Americans who have gone into Mexico and doubled wages have found that their laborers all quit in the middle of the week. The only way to make them work is to show them that their labor can be made a thing of beauty. Once they realize this they will devote themselves to it. Carranza understands his people. He doesn't want our deals or practices. He wants his people to develop slowly. He can't understand the American hurry. The Americans, he thinks, want to get all the wealth out of the earth now—all the coal and the oil and the minerals. He wants to give the Mexican people a couple of hundred years to develop in their own way. They are different."

## The Washington Press

imprint on a card or poster is an indication that the event thus advertised is of the first rank. Good printing goes with a good time; cheap printing stamps the affair as cheap; we are equipped to do printing of the better grade only. Our prices are as moderate as the present high cost of all printing materials will allow.



## NOTHING COULDBE NICER

more valuable, nor better appreciated as an Xmas gift in this season of high prices, than a pair of

NAP-A-TAN SHOES  
or BOOTS for MEN  
or BOYS.

¶ These goods are all solid leather and are essentially a California product, as the leather is California tanned and the shoes are made in San Francisco.

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**SCOTT**  
THE HARNESS MAN  
NILES, CALIF.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Executrix of the estate of JAMES W. TURNER also known as J. W. TURNER, deceased, to all persons having claims against the said deceased to, within ten months after the first publication of this notice, either file them, with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Alameda or exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, to me at the office of Thos. J. Power, Attorney at Law, Irvington, Alameda County, California, which place the undersigned selects as the place of business in all matters connected with said estate.

MARGARET R. TURNER  
Executrix of the estate of JAMES W. TURNER also known as J. W. TURNER, deceased.  
Dated, Irvington, Calif. Dec. 14, 1916.  
THOS. J. POWER,  
Attorney for said Executrix,  
Irvington, Calif.  
First publication, Dec. 16, 1916.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Executor of the estate of NELLIE A. HORN, deceased, to all persons having claims against the said deceased to, within four months after the first publication of this notice, either file them, with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Alameda or exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, to me at the office of Thos. J. Power, Attorney at Law, Irvington, Alameda Co., Calif., which place the undersigned selects as the place of business in all matters connected with said estate.

WILLIAM E. HORN  
Executor of the estate of Nellie A. Horn, deceased.  
Dated, Irvington, Calif., Dec. 14th, 1916.  
THOMAS J. POWER  
Attorney for said Executor,  
Irvington, Calif.  
First publication, Dec. 16, 1916.

## A PHOTO FREE

Do you want a fine 7x11 photograph of yourself free with a subscription to the Press. For every \$2 paid on a new subscription or for every \$2 paid in advance on an old subscription, the Press will give you an order on the "Boussum" Studio, 25 Kearny Street, San Francisco, which will entitle the holder to a fine photograph, 7x11. This photograph is itself worth the price of the subscription, \$2. If you are going to the city just come in to the Press office and see the kind of a photograph you can get. You will get courteous treatment at the Boussum studio and if you don't want more than the one photo you don't need to buy more. If you do wish more, there is a special price to the holders of the card we issue.

We intend to build up the subscription list of the Press and this is one of the premiums we are now offering.

## ON TAKING AN ANAESTHETIC

By CHRIS RUNCKEL JR.

You are wrapped warmly with a hot water bottle at your feet. Your arms have been strapped to your side, and your hands folded across your chest. The bandage has been placed over your eyes; your lips have been greased to prevent the ether from blistering them; the rubber mask has been put down over your nose and mouth. The room is quiet. You are breathing deeply. Soon your head begins to feel drawn and a numbness creeps up from your toes and fingers toward your heart. Everything seems far away. There is a ringing in your ears and you can hear your pulse hammering at your temples. Your head and chest are bursting. You can no longer feel the mask. The coordination of body and mind is gone. Except for a terrible roaring in your head you are conscious of no physical sensation. Then the tension is broken and you seem to float away. You are anaesthetized.

Taking an anaesthetic is not an everyday occurrence. In many respects it is disagreeable. It is hardly pleasant for a person with a normal appetite to go forty hours without food, and twenty-four hours without water. It is somewhat disconcerting to rub elbows for the first time with our old friend of the scythe and hour-glass. It is often disappointing afterward to realize how long it takes to get over all the effects of the "little death"; for one's nervous system is left rather unstrung. There are many things incidental to the experience that are unpleasant.

If one takes it philosophically, he is apt to derive, from the anaesthetic, benefits that are more permanent than the physical adjustments for which it has been given. One is apt, for example, to lose his fear of death, and to think of it not as an end of life but as the beginning of a new life. One may become disciplined in the art of taking hard things with an inward smile and bitter things without being embittered by them. One is apt to lose a lot of false pride, and to gain a new sense of the importance of the powers that are not seen and that cannot be understood. Losing one's fear of death and tasting the freedom that comes with it, one is almost certain to view with pity the tragedy of lives that ignorantly beat themselves out in the struggle after the phantom of Success.

Today we are here and tomorrow we are forgotten. The world moves on and our bodies are dust and ashes—prince and beggar alike. Civilizations pass away and worlds change, from planets covered with living things, into a dead glacial mass. In spite of which, some of us persist in strutting about. The chief value of an anaesthetic is that it knocks all the strut out of us, and teaches us how unimportant we are, except as a part of the eternal scheme of things.

## NEWARK

Mrs. W. H. Maffey has been quite ill, and is still confined to her bed, with a nurse to care for her.

Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Walker of Berkeley, Dr. and Mrs. Howard I. Kerr and daughter Elizabeth of Oakland, were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. James Curry on Thanksgiving. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Walker are Mrs. Curry's sisters.

The Christmas entertainment of the Presbyterian Sabbath School will be held in the church on Thursday evening, Dec. 21. The public is cordially welcome.

In accordance with the proclamation of President Wilson the Presbyterian Church took up the matter of raising money for the relief of Armenian and Syrian sufferers on account of the war. They raised \$71.00, of which \$4.33 came from the public school.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church recently held an afternoon social gathering and bazaar which was a very pleasant affair. And on Friday evening, Dec. 8, a musical and literary entertainment was given under their auspices in the Assembly room of the Grammar School building. The program was rendered entirely by local talent, and was quite varied and most interesting. There was a large and orderly audience in attendance. The proceeds of the two occasions were over one hundred dollars.

Jerry Collins has given up his position with S. A. D. Buchanan and is at present a gentleman of leisure. On the first of the month he is to begin reducing weight as a fireman for the S. P. In the meantime he is seeing a considerable part of the State.

## IRVINGTON

Mrs. W. Wood of Oakland has been visiting her daughter Mrs. Ida Hirsch.

Master William Bewick is threatened with pneumonia.

Mrs. L. Roderick went down to San Jose with Mrs. Fred Nelson of Niles, Saturday.

Fred Barkmeyer was a visitor in town on Saturday.

## DECOTO

The Decoto School will close next Friday, Dec. 22, for the Christmas vacation. It is the purpose at present to have a Christmas tree in the afternoon at the school house. A short program will be given but no attempt at an elaborate entertainment will be made.

During the vacation it is the intention of the trustees to make some change in the sanitary arrangements at the school. Money derived from a special tax will be available for this purpose. The trustees also intend to erect a water plant for the school.

Miss Theresa Whitfield has resumed her duties in the school after an illness of a week with tonsillitis.

The usual happy Christmas time at the Masonic Home is being planned for this year.

Quite a number of the small children in the district are suffering from chicken pox.

Tom Silva, one of Decoto's enterprising farmers holds the record this year for killing the largest hogs. It weighed 680 pounds. It was of the Poland-China breed.

County Superintendent of Schools G. W. Frick and County Attendance Officer M. J. Welch were both visitors in Decoto this week.

Several carloads of material were received this week by the Williet Burr Co. The shipment is part of the outfit of a large construction company in the East.

## CENTERVILLE

Dr. Eaton our genial dentist wears a broader smile than usual these days. This is accounted for by his approaching wedding to a charming young lady from San Diego, which is to take place before the new year.

Mrs. F. Marston of San Francisco has been visiting with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Bond.

Mrs. Ida Hirsch spent Friday in San Jose shopping.

Miss Frances Peters has been on the sick list for a couple of days.

Miss Cassie Christensen and Renie Roderick spent Saturday and Sunday in Alvarado with Mavis Scribner.

## NILES

Niles now has three card clubs, the Neighborhood Whist Club having been organized this week. The first meeting was held with Mr. and Mrs. Jacobus on Wednesday evening. Gentlemen members will pay a small assessment each evening and there will also be prizes each evening for the highest scores made by a lady or gentleman. The hours for play are from eight to ten o'clock. A light supper will follow before adjournment. On Wednesday evening Mrs. Hatch received a vase, and Mr. Bailey a purse for highest scores. There are five tables of players, the members being Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Overacker, Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Tyson, and Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Jacobus, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hatch, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Donovan, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Thane, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Craft, Mrs. Fern Green, Miss Biggs, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Ford. The meetings will be held every two weeks on Wednesday evening. The next meeting will fall on Wednesday, Dec. 27th with Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Meyer to entertain.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Tyson and their daughter Miss Edna Tyson spent Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. Ben R. Nicoll in Oakland. Miss Edna Tyson remained over the week-end to enjoy a concert by Madame Schumann-Heineck, which she attended with Miss Mary Barnard.

Mr. Edward Hyatt Jr. has moved his family to Niles, where they are occupying one of the Essanay cottages for the winter. Mr. Hyatt is working for the California State Water Commission investigation of the Water District-Spring Valley controversy.

The Niles Chamber of Commerce Band has cards out announcing a benefit dance to be given in Connor's Hall next Saturday evening, December 23rd. The music is to be furnished by the band itself. The admission is fifty cents for gentlemen. Prizes will be awarded.

The Maccabees of Niles are giving a dance at Connor's Hall, Niles, this Saturday evening, December 16. Syke's Orchestra will furnish the music. The admission is fifty cents for gentlemen. The dance promises a good time for everyone and a good crowd is expected to be present.

Mrs. Lester Duffy and daughter Patricia, and Miss Florence Sharpe spent the day Thursday in the city.

The work of putting in a curbing on I street between First and Second is a distinct improvement.

A Christmas Tree party for Saturday evening, December 23rd, is being planned by the Young Ladies Institute of Niles. The party will be held at I. O. O. F. hall and a program will feature the evening.

The final count of the ballots in the Hellwig - Lagrave - Washington Press contest will take place at six o'clock this next Wednesday evening, December 20th. Ballots must be deposited at either Niles or Alvarado store of Hellwig & Lagrave before that time.

Mrs. Mosher and Mrs. Hunt spent a day last week at Selby, Contra Costa Co., with Mrs. Clarence Waldner, nee Winifred Hunt, in her cottage home at that place.

The Niles Bridge Club met Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. Elvin Meyer as hostess. All the members were present to enjoy the jolly luncheon around the long table, and later to pass a couple of hours with the pleasant diversion of the game. Mrs. B. L. Tyson and Mrs. Elvin Meyer made highest scores for the afternoon. The next meeting will follow in two weeks on Tuesday, Dec. 29th, with Mrs. Ben Tyson as hostess.

Trinity Guild held its regular meeting on Wednesday afternoon of this week with Mrs. Philip Moore, the members passing pleasant afternoon with needlework. Light refreshments were served before adjournment. There will be no further meetings until after the holidays. Mrs. B. L. Tyson will be the next hostess on Wednesday, Jan. 10th.

Mrs. A. B. Haley of Newark has been a guest this week of Mrs. H. E. Mosher. Mrs. Haley leaves by steamer on Friday for San Diego where she will spend the winter.

Messrs. J. C. Shinn and C. H. Hatch spent several days this week on a quail hunt in the hills near San Benito.

Ice has formed on pools of water several nights during the past week and the frosty weather makes warm fires most comfortable.

## Holiday Excursions!

Reduced Round Trip Fares  
Between All Points in California for  
**CHRISTMAS  
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NEW YEAR'S**  
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BETWEEN  
**NILES  
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Sacramento	\$3.35
San Francisco	\$1.00
Los Angeles	\$17.70
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Sale Dates: Christmas, Dec. 23, 24, 25;  
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Return Limit Jan 2 (both)

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Agt. Niles Station  
Let us plan your trip. Telephone or write points you desire to visit. We will deliver a carefully prepared itinerary for your consideration.

## NILES

The Parents and Teachers Club meeting last Friday evening, at the Assembly room of the School building was well attended and arrangements were made to prepare a Christmas tree for the school children. About 300 are expected to enjoy the good cheer of the beautiful tree and the fruit of its branches. Mrs. Oakeshott, President of the Club, is working hard to make the evening a success.

On Saturday afternoon last about twenty young girls and boys gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. Walpert of Niles in response to invitations sent out by Miss May Walpert, to come to her birthday party. The afternoon was merrily passed in plays and games, and at 4:30 all were seated at the big round table. There was a big birthday cake in the center with its seven lighted candles, and plates of "goodies" all about it to gladden their hearts, most of which did the disappearing act in a short time. Among the little folks present were George Chalmers, Gertrude Ellsworth, Cheryl and Willella Moyer Lucy and Patty Shinn, Irma and Carol Trimmingham, Margaret Lowrie, Pauline Harvey, Carol Overacker, Marshal and Morrison Green, Peter Oakeshott, and Addison Richmond.

The friends of Mrs. Laura Whipple who is spending the winter in Niles with her mother Mrs. Thane, will be pleased to learn of her complete success in founding a memorial library in honor of her husband James R. Whipple at the town of Thane, near Juneau, Alaska. Mrs. Whipple has now has about 6000 volumes and a building was erected by the town to house the books and for the accommodation of the patrons.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

(Ten cents per line first insertion. Five cents per line each successive insertion. Payable in advance.)

FOR SALE—Alfalfa Hay. Enquire of S. F. BROWN, Box 12, R.F.D., Newark.

WANTED—A reliable woman for general housework. Must be neat house-keeper. Write or telephone MRS. GEO. HELLWIG, Alvarado, Cal.

## NILES

Mrs. Ralph Richmond entertained the members of the Niles "500" Club on Thursday afternoon of last week.

Mr. Paul Bailey, civil engineer employed by the State Water Commission has been allowed a State automobile for his work. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey are stopping at Belvoir while his work is in this district.

Mrs. J. E. Thane attended the anniversary celebration of the Ebell Club in Oakland on Tuesday and took part in old fashioned costume in a little play by Mrs. Woodbury introducing the "Deestrick Skule" number of the program.

Miss Martha Sanford is visiting with relatives in Oakland this week.

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